

CHAMPS x 2

Girls stun top seed Harrisburg in overtime, boys come from behind against Aberdeen



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Girls basketball team members celebrate after winning the state title. The Lady Knights defeated Harrisburg 53-48 in overtime. See page 4 for more on the win.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Boys basketball team members celebrate after defeating Aberdeen Central 69-57. This was the Knights' first title since 2012. See page 4 for more on the win.

Mahoney set to become new O'Gorman principal

Max Stenson
Co-Editor

O'Gorman High School assistant principal Joan Mahoney will become the principal on July 1, replacing current principal Mr. Kyle Groos, who will be the Sioux Falls Catholic Schools' new president.

Mahoney feels well-prepared to take on the role of principal, due to her long-time experience as assistant principal at O'Gorman. She began her career at O'Gorman in 1990, taught English for 14 years, and then became assistant principal.

"[Mr. Groos and I] have worked together on a lot of things, and I've learned a lot from him," Mahoney said.

"I'm looking forward to leading what I

consider to be the best high school in the nation," said Mahoney. "I want to continue our excellence in academics and extracurricular activities."

Mahoney's leadership philosophy is one that includes participation among staff members.

"My leadership style is participatory. You want faculty to play a role in decision-making, so that they feel ownership."

Leading a school like O'Gorman has its difficulties.

"It takes a lot of energy and work to continue the tradition of excellence that has become O'Gorman," said Mahoney.

Students and staff are looking forward to Mahoney's new role as well.

"She does a great job as assistant prin-

cipal, and that will carry over into the new position," sophomore Ben Breske said.

"I think it is fantastic that Mrs. Mahoney was chosen to be the new principal," said social studies teacher Jessica Fauteck. "She has been an important part of O'Gorman as both a teacher and vice principal, and I think it is great that someone who knows and understands our school will now have the opportunity to be our leader."

Mahoney is excited for the new opportunity. "O'Gorman is a special place, and I have been fortunate to be part of this family as a parent, teacher and administrator for more than two decades. I consider it an honor and privilege to lead O'Gorman High School," Mahoney said.



Joan Mahoney



KNIGHT LEGEND

CALLED TO SERVE. O’Gorman students serve soup at the Empty Bowls event held on March 8. According to campus minster Jon Konz, around 500 meals were served. The proceeds from the event go to help local charities. The entire O’Gorman community pitched in to help make the event a success as bowls were crafted by art teacher Gary Siska, meals were served by students, and staff members helped supervise and assist students.

Lent provides opportunities for growth before Easter

Maria Lusardi
Staff Writer

At times Lent can be a difficult journey for many students.

The fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday can be a struggle, according to Fr. Shaun Haggerty.

“Sometimes it’s a struggle to decide what to do,” said junior Theresa Fischer.

Despite these struggles though, students still feel Lent benefits them spiritually.

“I see it as a time to get closer to God and Jesus and be able to sacrifice things for Jesus,” said freshman Jacob Jorgensen.

Fr. Haggerty also lists many benefits of Lent to his personal life. “The times I’ve had the greatest joy is when I’ve made the most sacrifices,” said Fr. Haggerty.

Fr. Haggerty explained that Lent can be especially important for teenagers. “There are many distractions in life,” he said. “Not all those voices are concerned for our greatest good. Lent is a time to focus on that one voice that really cares about you.”

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Letters to the Editor

All letters should be short and concise. The writer should include a name and contact information. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, conventions and length.

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Busy year captured for lasting memories by yearbook staff

Rebecca Clark
Staff Writer

The yearbook staff is well on their way to putting together the next edition of the Knight Legend.

"The yearbook is the only lasting memory in print that captures the highlights of a high school year," said yearbook adviser Mr. Doug Basche.

The yearbook is put together with software called Jostens Yearbook Avenue Page Designer. It is a pre-planned layout that allows the yearbook staff to enter in pictures and captions.

For Photoshop the yearbook staff uses Adobe Photoshop CC 2015. There are about 450 copies of the yearbook sold each year.

The theme for yearbook this year is "Believe You Belong".

"Everyone at O'Gorman should believe that they belong in the family that the students create," said senior Olivia

Boyum, editor of the Knight Legend.

"I like that in yearbook we are family, and we love to be a part of the events and capture the moments," said sophomore Lillee Heisinger.

Mr. Basche seems to be proud of this year's staff. "Yearbook is a great opportunity for those who like layout design, writing and photojournalism. It is a great way to express your inner self," said Mr. Basche. "They take their responsibilities seriously and work hard to put out a good product. A yearbook is the lasting memory book that will be kept forever."

According to the yearbook staff, one of the yearbook's main goals is getting everyone into the yearbook more than once, so that they have more pictures than just the school picture.

Yearbooks are \$70. Students can purchase them online at jostensyearbooks.com or in room O-204 by May 19.

Students submit artwork to state visual competition

Caleb Impecoven
Staff Writer

Along with hosting the state AA basketball championships in mid-March, Rapid City also hosted the State Visual Arts Competition and Gallery.

The O'Gorman Art Club, led by Mr. Siska, participated in the State Visual Arts Competition and Gallery, which was sponsored by SDHSAA at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City on March 17-18.

The State Visual Arts Competition is an annual contest between South Dakota schools and their respective visual art programs. During this third annual event, 32 schools participated and over 300 students entered artwork.

Since the first competition in 2015, 12 different categories have been established for different styles

of art: Drawing, Drawing Colored, Painting (Oil and Acrylic), Painting (Watercolor), Photography, Print Making, 3-Dimensional, Crafts, Traditional Cultural Art, Multi-Media/Graphic Design, Mixed Media, and Functional Ceramics.

For each category, there are three different classes with ranking similar to other activities: class AA, A, and B.

For awards, each category in each class has a winner, and each class has the Overall Team Champion Award for the "one school in each class that accumulates the most sweepstakes points across all State Gallery categories."

There are also Best In Show Awards for the piece with the highest rank from the judges, regardless of category. O'Gorman had eight entries in Class AA that went to Rapid City

for the competition: Ashley Nachtigall, Drawing: Mess of a Mind (Third Place); Maddie Skillman, Drawing Colored: The Feeling; Tommy Fritz, Painting (Oil and Acrylic): Underneath It All; Jade Hansen, Painting (Watercolor): Mixed Emotions; Sadie Swenson, 3-Dimensional: Cicada; John Dohn, Crafts: Abandoned Farmhouse (Second Place); Yi Bing Luo, Traditional Cultural Art: Chinese Celadon Pottery; Rylee Smith, Functional Ceramics: Textured Vase.

Jade Hansen, an O'Gorman sophomore in the Art Club, was excited to be involved. "The O'Gorman art program gave this amazing opportunity to showcase our students' talents, and I'm just happy to be a part of that," said Hansen. "Even though I didn't place, it was still an honor to be a part of the O'Gorman team."

Debaters, interpers qualify for nationals in Alabama, Kentucky

Maria Lusardi
Staff Writer

The debate and oral interpretation teams can look forward to out of state travels this year as 14 students qualified for nationals from the two teams combined.

In debate sophomore Seamus Duffy qualified for International Extemp, senior Sophia Holtz qualified for Domestic Exemp, and seniors Samuel Diedrich and Alexander King qualified for Public Forum. All four of the team's seniors have been nominated for state speaking awards. The team also had a first place winner at almost every one of the 23 tournaments they have attended thus far.

"We have a lot of really talented freshmen," said debate coach Bob Stevens.

With only three tournaments left until the end of the season, the students are optimistic.

"I'm looking forward to Student Congress," said Duffy.

Interp is sending a total of 10 students to national competitions. Sam Billion, Nick Maxwell, Cassie Schoenhard, Taylor Evans, Kathryn Hammer, Anna Bear, Carli Tomac, Tommy Fritz and Rudy Lawler will be going to the National Speech and Debate Association Tournament in Birmingham, Ala.

Billion, Maxwell, Schoenhard, Evans, Hammer, Bear, and Tomac in addition to Cecilia Gillen will also be attending the National Catholic Forensic League Tournament in Louisville, Ky. This is the largest number of students to ever qualify for national tournaments for the oral interpretation team.

"I was really pleased to see several kids push themselves in other categories and try new things," said interp coach Teresa Fester.

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Boys turn back Golden Eagles in title game

William Murphy
Staff Writer

After finishing the regular season as the top-ranked team in the state, the Knights won the 2017 state title, defeating Aberdeen Central 69-57.

The 25-3 team featured seniors Joey Messler, Louis Peterson, Tyler Hayes, Carter Kosiak, J.P. Costello and Matt Cartwright.

The win for the Knights earned coach Derek Robey his sixth state title. "I thought we had a fantastic season," said Robey. "I felt we just really came together as a group at the

right time."

During the title game, the Knights found themselves down at halftime 33-29. A monstrous third quarter propelled the Knights to the 69-57 win.

"I think our closeness as a team gave us the edge," said Messler. "We're like family and no one cares who scores."

Cartwright, who will be playing at Augustana next year, felt the players worked well together. "Overall trust in each other to have one another's back and be there for each other when adversity hit was what got us through the regular season," said Cartwright.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC BROADCASTING
Senior Matt Cartwright receives a pass. He was named Gatorade Player of the Year.

As spring nears, golfers prepare for new season with big goals

Rebecca Clark
Staff Writer

After placing second at last year's state golf tournament, the Lady Knights are hoping to move up a spot and take the state championship this year.

"I am most looking forward to spending time with my teammates and competing this season," said sophomore Sophia Salter.

"I am looking forward to be able to play and hangout with my teammates," said sophomore Jenna Sutcliffe.

"It is definitely a challenge to adjust to playing outside again after hitting inside for most of the winter months. One of the hardest things for me early in the season is adjusting to the greens," said Salter. "Letting your emotions get the best of you can have a huge impact on your round."

The goals for the golf team range from simple things like positive attitudes to harder things such as earning a state title. "Many things contribute to achieving [the state title] though, so we also have goals of always remaining mentally strong and making every shot count," said Salter.

The golf season kicked off on March 27.

Lady Knights end magical run with state title

David Berman
Staff Writer

For the first time since 1995, the O'Gorman girls basketball team has won the state championship.

The girls upset top-seeded Harrisburg 53-48 to clinch the championship in front of fans at Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City.

"I am so proud of our team for accomplishing everything we did," said senior Ashlee Beacom. "I'm really happy that we got to be the team to finally bring home the championship for Coach Kolsrud and all of our other wonderful coaches."

Sebastian Akoi led the way with 18 points, with Emma Ron-siek and Beacom finishing with 13 and 11, respectively.

O'Gorman got off to a fast start, finishing the first quarter with a 17-9 lead. The Tigers struck back by going on a 12-2 run in the second quarter, closing the gap to a 24-22 Knights lead at the half.

The second half offered much more even play, with both teams jostling for the lead. After Ron-siek knocked down a free throw to tie the score at 42 with a little over a minute remaining, neither team could score in the remaining time, sending the game into overtime.

Akoi opened up the overtime scoring with a free throw, followed by a McKenzie Herman-son layup to put the Knights up 45-42. They never relinquished the lead in the extra time, locking in the win with four more

free throws in the last few seconds.

Free throws turned out to be a big factor in the outcome, as the Knights went 18-27 from the line, compared to 6-16 for the Tigers.

The Knights entered the tournament with an 11-11 regular season record, ranked seventh overall. After upsetting second-seeded Roosevelt 37-33, they beat sixth-seeded Aberdeen Central 47-34 to reach the title game. It was a remarkable run for the team to finish out their season, as they won seven of their last eight games.

"The turning point to me was when we learned to play with confidence and not let our record condemn how we were going to perform," said Akoi.

Harrisburg had come into

the game on a 23 game winning streak, offering up a tough challenge for the Lady Knights.

"We never felt like there was any pressure on us as we were not the favorite to win any of the three games," said head coach Kent Kolsrud. "We definitely had a difficult route to winning the championship, and these girls got it done."

Besides winning his first state championship after four previous tries, Kolsrud notched his 300th win as the head coach of the Lady Knights. "Winning 300 games is a credit to all the great players and coaches I have had over my 19 years at O'Gorman," Kolsrud said. "I am very blessed and thankful to have had the opportunity to work with such great kids and coaches."

Powerlifters capture title for sixth consecutive year

Madeline Nguyen
Staff Writer

The O'Gorman powerlifting team had an outstanding season, drawing in a wide range of students and ultimately taking the state title.

From the first meet through state, their performances improved and their scores grew exponentially, creating motivation and confidence for the team overall.

"Everyone on the team from the start of the season worked really hard so by the end of the season we had all grown stronger and succeeded," said sophomore Sophia Salter.

The support of the team helped each member grow in confidence individually as well.

"Originally I didn't think I was going to be very good at all, but throughout the season I got stronger," said sophomore Eva



Senior Ashlynn Kowalczyk squats during the state powerlifting meet held on March 11. The Knights won the state title.

Boyum. "I surprised myself a lot when I ended up placing at state." Boyum earned second in her weight class at the state competition. This year's meet made

O'Gorman state champions for six consecutive years. O'Gorman is sending six people to compete in the national championships in Scranton, Penn.

Wrestlers finish year after breaking records, competing at state

Avery Starr
Staff Writer

The Knight wrestlers just capped off an astounding wrestling season. From experienced upperclassmen, to rookie freshman, they played their strengths to the best of their abilities.

"We are very proud of the the progress the team is making and the results of the previous season," said coach Matt Lynch. "We are continuing to gain strengths in each position. The guys work hard each week and show less and less frustration with themselves during competition."

Senior wrestler T.J. Scheafer broke the school record for the most takedowns. The record use to be 68, but Scheafer's new O'Gorman record is 70.

"It is a wonderful feeling to

beat a school record and to be able to leave my mark as I go on to do bigger and better things," said Scheafer. "I think the best part about breaking the record this year was that I had no idea I was even close to doing what I did until Jon Binstock and Coach Lynch brought it up to me one day before practice."

This team has no plans on stopping their success. "We will continue to have open mats in the off season as well," said Lynch. "This will create growth in ability and mental preparation for ongoing success and improvement as well as ongoing strength training."

Kenley Lamberty also plans on improving during the off season. "I'm going to keep going hard and get stronger and work on it in the summer so I can be better."

Be True to Yourself: A Coach's Journey

From Staff Reports

For Kent Kolsrud, coaching has been as much about preparing young athletes for life after basketball as it has been about playing the game itself.

The longtime girls basketball coach's career at O'Gorman has been marked by success. He has taken the team to the state tournament eight times in the last 10 years, his players have gone on to play at the college level, and he has cemented himself as one of the most-respected coaches in the state.

The only tarnish on his coaching career was that he kept coming up just short in state title games. But that all changed this year. After a Cinderella run in the state tournament, the Lady Knights capped off their season with a AA state championship victory in Rapid City.

Kolsrud, however, isn't just a coach. He's a mentor, teacher and role model for the athletes he coaches.

Basketball standout and 2012 graduate Chandler Nielsen agrees. "I think that anyone who has the privilege to play for coach Kolsrud can sense his passion and commitment from day one," says Nielsen, who played basketball at Augustana College and is now a medical student at the University of South Dakota. "He values people and cares about the person – not just the player."

Nielsen, who played on O'Gorman's 2011 runner-up team, says that Kolsrud's care for people shows just how invested he is in the person – and not just the player.

During the summer before Nielsen's senior year, she had un-

dergone surgery for a torn ACL and was beginning therapy. Kolsrud and his daughter Kennedy decided to take Nielsen out for lunch.

"That lunch could have been purely about my knee and getting healthy as fast as I could so that I could miss as few games as possible," says Nielsen. "Instead, he asked me how I was doing mentally and how I was coping with the situation. We also talked about my long term goal of becoming a physician and what that path would look like while playing college basketball."

Nielsen says that Kolsrud's valuing people for who they are is something she has applied in her own life. "Coach Kolsrud not only values his players in the basketball arena but also about who they are as people and who they will become," says Nielsen.

Coming into this year's state tournament, Kolsrud's teams had lost in the finals four previous times. But he has never let the losses define him. "We have had some tough losses in the semifinals and finals over the years," says Kolsrud. "But I think every year you are in the coaching business you grow as a person and coach. There is no better teacher than experience."

Kolsrud's impact has also been felt by his assistant coaches.

"He is a great coach and is constantly working hard to make sure the team is successful," says Crystal Richter, an O'Gorman graduate who played under Kolsrud and has since coached with him for 11 years. "He understands the basketball side of things very well. However, most importantly, he really cares about every single player that he coaches. He



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Head coach Kent Kolsrud talks to his team during a timeout of the state championship game against Harrisburg. Kolsrud notched win number 300 with the victory.

wants the best for them not only now but in the future."

Richter says that Kolsrud has created a positive atmosphere among his players. After a tough state championship loss in 2015, players were disappointed for themselves and also their coach. "I remember when we lost in the championship one of the players mentioned how badly she wanted to win for Kolsrud," says Richter. "That is the respect that the girls have for him. This program has truly become a family, and he deserves the credit for that."

This year's team was no exception. "Our team this year formed a really special bond with each other," says senior Ashlee Beacom. "I love each one of those girls and I will never forget the time we got to spend together."

Moreover, Beacom credits Kolsrud and his staff for creating a positive atmosphere even when things looked bleak. "Coach Kolsrud and all of our coaches really believed in us this whole season even when no one else did," says Beacom. "I think their support and belief in us on and off the court made us into better players and better people."

As for Kolsrud, he remains humble after the win and ultimately bounces the praise to his team. "I am very proud of what this team accomplished over the course of the season," says Kolsrud. "To see them celebrate as state champions and the joy it brought to the players and coaches was truly amazing."

But it is clear that Kolsrud's own values have had an effect on

those around him. "I hope I do a good job of keeping things in perspective and trying to do things the right way," says Kolsrud. "I think it is very important in whatever profession you are in to continue to try and learn and get better at your particular career – never be satisfied with the status quo."

Kolsrud's advice to aspiring coaches? "Be true to yourself. I don't believe you can coach like or try to emulate someone else. Have the conviction and passion for what you are doing and do it to the very best of your ability. Do it for the right reasons: teach the kids the game and help them to learn life skills and life lessons for future success."

Knights optimistic as season begins with new track coach at team helm

David Berman
Staff Writer

The O'Gorman track and field team has high hopes for this year's season, which kicked off in late March.

Senior Will Bentz, who is competing in the 800, 1600, and 3200 meter races, is looking to cut his times and be a part of the 4 x 800 team at state.

Bentz enjoys the camaraderie and has become a leader for the team as well. "This year I've helped lead stretches, as well as doing my best to push my teammates to con-

stantly improve," Bentz said.

Of all the things he's going to miss about high school track, he said that he is going to miss the people the most because "they make all of the tough practices easier."

First-year head coach Aaron Strand has been working hard to get the team into shape for the start of the season.

"The first few weeks of the year are our big training period for the events. We are trying to get the kids in shape to be faster and stronger," Strand said. "Once the meets

get going we spend more time breaking down the events and working event specifics."

Strand also showed his optimism for the Knights' potential for this season. "We have some real quality kids in all the different events," Strand said. "At state we are hoping to place some kids in all the different field events and put together some great relay teams."

The team started its first week of the season with Vermillion and Brookings on March 27 and Madison on March 30.

Tennis team looks to youth as underclassmen lead way against tough competition

Madeline Nguyen
Staff Writer

The boys tennis season kicked off mid-March with a record number of boys trying out for the team. With nearly 35 boys coming to compete, more new faces than ever make up the team.

The oldest players on varsity are just now sophomores, with Cade Damgaard at number one and Wil McDowell at spot number two. They will lead the team along with freshman Michael Yousef. Beyond these

three players remain five varsity spots to be filled.

"They are all top level players and we are glad to have them," said head coach Don Barnes. Barnes also stated that new young faces such as freshman Zach Curd and eighth graders Kade Moffitt and Zach Ridl show potential for varsity, allowing plenty of time for the team to grow in skill.

The varsity boys are enthusiastic about the upcoming competition and the fresh faces on the team.

"It looks good. We have a lot of young talent," said Damgaard.

Hollywood gears up for big summer

Nicolette Boyum
Co-Editor

With the glitz and glamour of awards season coming to a close, moviegoers look forward to the excitement of spring and summer movie premieres.

To start off spring, *Gifted*, a child prodigy story with Chris Evans in the lead, releases along with *Smurfs: The Lost Village* also releases on April 7.

Going in Style is a lighthearted comedy reboot about three retired men who, in an attempt to pay their stacked bills, organize a plot to rob a casino on the Vegas strip. Morgan Freeman headlines the cast as Willie alongside Michael Caine as Joe and Alan Arkin as Albert.

From *Spiderman: Homecoming* star Tom Holland comes *The Lost City of Z*, a true life story of British explorer Col. Percy Fawcett, who explores the Amazon in hopes of finding a treasure trove. Charlie Hunnam plays Col. Fawcett alongside Holland as Jack

Fawcett and Robert Pattinson as Henry Costin. It is set to premiere April 14.

For those living the fast life, also on the 14 comes the eighth installment of the *Fast and Furious* franchise. *The Fate of the Furious* will feature much of the original cast alongside newcomers Charlize Theron and Scott Eastwood.

The storyline surrounds Vin Diesel's character, Dominic Toretto, as he finds himself seduced into a world of crime while the rest of the crew attempt to save him.

Looking for a dramatic sci-fi? Look no further than *The Circle*, which features Emma Watson, Tom Hanks, and *Star Wars* star, John Boyega. It is also the last film of actor Bill Paxton, most notably known for his work in *Twister* and *Titanic*, who died in February.

Watson plays a young woman named Mae Holland, who, after landing a dream job at a tech company called The Circle, is faced with choosing between life as she knows it and an ex-

periment that could break the boundaries of privacy and ethics. It is set to release April 28.

Attention Marvel fans: *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* is coming to theatres May 5. Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Vin Diesel, Bradley Cooper and Dave Bautista all return to headline the quintet.

The movie follows up Peter Quill's search for his true parentage and is said to feature old foes and fan favorites from the Marvel comic.

On May 26, *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales* will release. It shows Captain Jack Sparrow, played by Johnny Depp, searching for the trident of Poseidon in order to defeat his nemesis, Captain Salazar.

Flash Forward to June and July, moviegoers can enjoy *Cars 3* (June 16) and *Despicable Me 3* (June 30).

The long awaited reboot of the *Spiderman* franchise comes July 7. *Spiderman: Homecoming* features Tom Holland, Zendaya, and Donald Glover, and will follow



MARVEL STUDIOS / PRESS PHOTO

Bradley Cooper returns to voice Rocket Raccoon in *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*. The movie hits theatres May 5.

Peter Parker as he balances life as a teen and a web-slinging superhero.

For the general historian or One Direction fan, *Dunkirk* releas-

es on July 25. It stars none other than Harry Styles as Alex and Tom Hardy as Farrier. The film is a true life story of the World War II battle in Dunkirk, France.

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What is your dream summer job?



“A lifeguard”
- Shayla Shaver



“A pool cleaner because
I like playing in the pool.”
- Ado Ghebrekidan



“Humane Society
because I love animals!”
- Rachael Fanciullo



“Saving people, hunting things,
the family business”
- Jon Van Bochove



“A tour guide in Alaska”
- Mrs. Kruse

Top Ten

Spring Activities

- 1. Go hiking
- 2. Have a picnic
- 3. Play golf
- 4. Wear open-toed shoes
- 5. Go to the zoo
- 6. Attend a baseball game
- 7. Play disc golf at Tuthill
- 8. Take a bike ride
- 9. Go camping
- 10. Take naps outside

Cell phone policy
needs fine tuning

Max Stenson
Co-Editor

As I was sitting at lunch one day, one of my friends took out his cell phone and began using it. Unfortunately, the teachers at the teacher table spotted the contraband, and as per school handbook policies, took away the cell phone for one week.

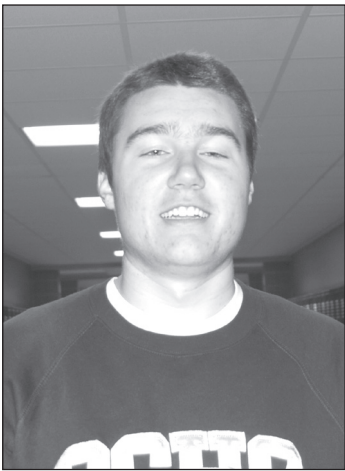
According to the O’Gorman High School student handbook, “Students are not to carry cell phones on their person during the school day. These devices can be distracting, can cause academic integrity issues, and have a potential to be dangerous in cases dealing with school emergencies.”

The punishment for violating this policy is as follows: “If students are found to be carrying a cell phone with them, it will be confiscated and held by the administration for one week. Parents may retrieve the phone at any time during this week by paying a \$25 fine.”

While I, and many other students, can find O’Gorman’s cell phone policy to seem archaic and be an inconvenience, the rationale behind the cell phone ban is actually very reasonable.

I recently sat down with principal Mr. Kyle Groos to learn more about the cell phone policy. Going into the interview, I was a strong advocate for cell phones being allowed in school. After the interview, however, I had a completely different opinion on the current policy.

It is no surprise that cell



Max Stenson

create during a school emergency include unnecessary panic and unintended consequences, such as news media reporting inaccuracies, Groos explained.

Although I agree with the reasoning behind the cell phone ban, I am still against the punishments currently in place for violating the cell phone policy.

Confiscating a student’s cell phone for one week is excessive. Ideally, there should be some type of progressive punishment system in place.


For example, the first time a student gets caught with a cell phone would result in the phone being taken away for the rest of the day, the second violation would additionally result in a detention, and the third violation would result in a one-week confiscation.

While students can currently get their cell phone back before one week if a parent comes to pay \$25, this is an unfair policy because it puts students’ families who have tight finances at a disadvantage.

For some people, paying a \$25 fee simply to get the cell phone back is not a big deal. But there are many families who simply cannot afford to pay a \$25 fee to retrieve the cell phone, as that \$25 needs to go to other necessities such as food or gas.

It can be difficult to see, but O’Gorman has students’ best interests in mind with their cell phone ban -- even if the punishment is a little excessive.

ADVENTURE AWAITS
AT BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY



BHSU.edu/FutureJackets

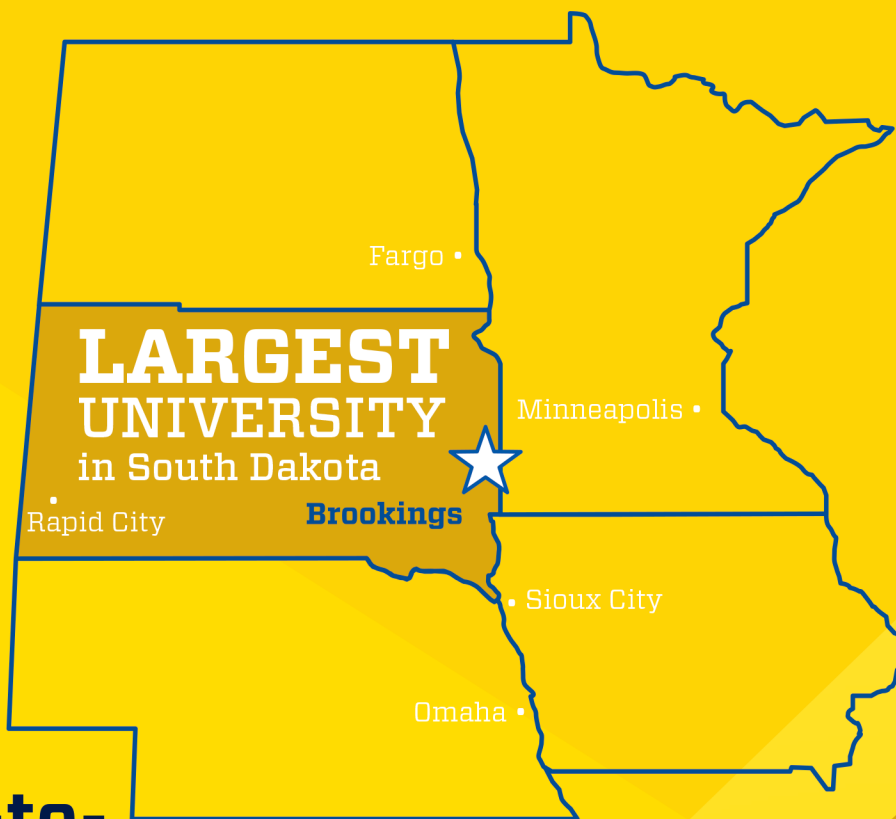
JACKETzone
Black Hills State University 41st & Kiwanis, Sioux Falls

SUPPORTS THE KNIGHTS!

SDSU by the numbers

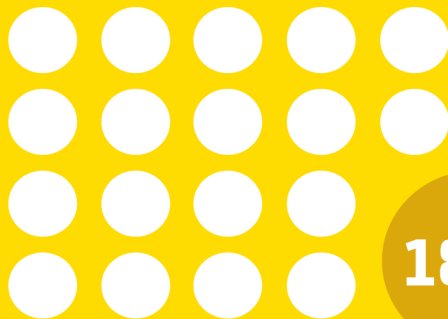


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